

MuckRock News  
DEPT MR 52117  
411A Highland Ave  
Somerville, MA 02144-2516  
52117-50680303@requests.muckrock.com

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Environmental Protection Agency  
FOIA Office  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest  
Washington, DC 20004

April 9, 2018

This is a follow up to a previous request:

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am filing a Freedom of Information Act request for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) policy or rules regarding the use of lights and/or sirens for administrator vehicular travel (or vehicular travel in general, if there is no policy specific to the administrator's use). Please include any final versions of the policy that have been in place at any point between January 20, 2017 and April 6, 2018.

I would prefer the request be filled electronically, by e-mail attachment if available or CD-ROM if not. Please produce the records on a rolling basis; at no point should the search for – or deliberation concerning – certain records delay the production of others that the agency has already retrieved and elected to produce.

I respectfully request that you waive all fees in connection with this request as provided by 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii). The Sierra Club is a national environmental nonprofit with no commercial interest in obtaining the requested information. Instead, our organization intends to analyze and disseminate the requested information free of charge so that the public can meaningfully participate in government oversight of wasteful resources and indulgent practices.

The subject matter of the requested records is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations and activities of the government by disclosing more information about a major news story. The New York Times reported that there was internal debate about using flashing lights and sirens in EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's motorcade to expedite local trips in Washington, D.C. The story gained traction as it mentioned that Administrator Pruitt had used this power inappropriately to make fairly routine trips, including for dinner.

The article said, "Such use was not consistent with agency policy, but [former head of Administrator Pruitt's protective detail] Mr. Weese was unsuccessful in stopping it," suggesting that either a change in policy has taken place in the past year or current practice is not in line with the policy (source: <https://nyti.ms/2EnPGKf>). In the same article, EPA spokesperson Jahan Wilcox confirmed that the security detail does use lights and sirens in a "very limited fashion," though claimed that Administrator Pruitt "played no role in deciding when the sirens and lights would be used." This inherent conflict in details could be partially cleared up by the disclosure of the agency's rules.

The Sierra Club and its supporters have demonstrated interest and expertise in the subject area as it

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relates to unnecessary security and travel expenses incurred at a time when the EPA has faced very large budget cut proposals.

In addition to the public interest fee waiver, I ask to be properly categorized as a representative of the news media. The bulk of my professional duties at the Sierra Club entails planning and writing content about public policy, including composing mass communications to our followers, analyzing FOIA responses, and coordinating press outreach. I have previously written about my Freedom of Information Act requests:

<https://sierraclub.org/planet/2017/05/trump-admin-policies-leave-700-cdc-jobs-vacant>  
<https://sierraclub.org/planet/2017/04/hiring-freeze-prevented-epa-filling-hundreds-jobs>

This work was covered in major media outlets:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/to-your-health/wp/2017/05/19/nearly-700-vacancies-at-cdc-because-of-trump-administration-hiring-freeze/>  
<http://www.cnn.com/2017/04/13/politics/epa-hiring-freeze/index.html>

The Sierra Club has the ability and intention to disseminate the information it receives through this request. The information may be shared through emails to an audience reaching into the millions, Facebook and Twitter posts reaching tens of thousands of followers, articles on our often-visited website, and analysis provided to the media.

In the event that there are fees, please inform me of the total charges in advance of fulfilling my request. Please also include an explanation of why I was not granted the fee waivers and/or reductions.

Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation in this matter. I look forward to receiving your response to this request within 20 business days, as the statute requires.

Sincerely,

Alexander Rony  
Sierra Club

Filed via MuckRock.com  
E-mail (Preferred): 52117-50680303@requests.muckrock.com

For mailed responses, please address (see note):

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PLEASE NOTE: This request is not filed by a MuckRock staff member, but is being sent through MuckRock by the above in order to better track, share, and manage public records requests. Also note that improperly addressed (i.e., with the requester's name rather than "MuckRock News" and the department number)

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requests might be returned as undeliverable.

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On April 6, 2018:  
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